



The Toggle Iron

Park & City Cut Ribbon on New Exhibits

With more than 75 fishermen and family, fishing industry leaders, elected officials, park partners, residents and the media in attendance Superintendent John Piltzecker and Mayor Frederick M. Kalisz, Jr. cut a ribbon signaling the official opening of an exciting new exhibit at the city owned Waterfront Visitor Center (Wharfinger Building), titled *A Working Waterfront*, and to celebrate the completion of the replacement of the city's system of outdoor interpretive "wayside" panels and orientation maps.

The May 25th ceremony, located adjacent to the Wharfinger Building on the city's commercial waterfront was the culmination of a two year planning and design effort working with city representatives, park partners, a fishing industry focus group and staff from the Harper's Ferry Center. Park staff worked side by side with city staff to carry out the project which was undertaken primarily on municipal property. The project was made possible by \$400,000 in funds from the Federal Highway Administration's Public Lands Highways Program.

The Wharfinger Building, which hosts the Waterfront Visitor Center, was erected in 1935 as a Work Projects Administration (WPA) project and was the site of the port's fish auctions for many years, ending in 1985. *A Working Waterfront* features first hand accounts and vintage photos to tell the story of the building's history, including the morning auction, which now takes place on-line. The old auction board serves as a backdrop to describe how fish travel from ocean to table, the types of fish landed, and the port's fishing vessels. A video titled *Atlantic Pearl*,

From the Superintendent

Summer at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park is a special time of year. There is a palpable energy in the air with visitors from near and far walking the park's cobblestone streets and visiting our historic sites and cultural institutions. To connect these visitors with our many long-standing programs, this edition of the Toggle Iron features a schedule of special events, outdoor concerts and craft demonstrations. We are especially excited this summer to offer new exhibits at the Wharfinger building, new outdoor interpretive panels and new park publications. In addition, the park is proud to partner with two new festivals this year: Azorean Whaleboat Regatta and the Working Waterfront Festival. Won't you take some time this summer to visit us and Experience Your America?

Tom Ross
Acting Superintendent



New Bedford Mayor, Frederick M. Kalisz, Jr. and Park Superintendent, John Piltzecker cut the ribbon to the new exhibit, *A Working Waterfront*, located at the Waterfront Visitor Center, as Arthur Motta (far left), the City's Director of Marketing and Tourism and John Linehan, of the New Bedford Port Society look on.

produced by University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth faculty member Daniel Georgianna, is featured in the exhibit.

The park used the city's existing wayside panel system, installed over twenty years ago, as a template for replacing and updating the panels. The 42 new panels, located throughout the downtown and waterfront, help to tell the story of the city's whaling, maritime and Underground Railroad heritage. The historical images for the panels came largely from the New Bedford Whaling Museum, which provided assistance for the exhibit through its library and curatorial staff.



Attendees of the ribbon-cutting ceremony take some time to look at one of the newly installed outdoor wayside panels.

Summerfest Attracts Large Crowds



According to event organizers, almost 60,000 people crowded the streets of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park July 3rd and 4th taking in the sights and sounds of Summerfest. Thanks to perfect weather and the draw of high quality crafts, fresh New Bedford seafood and nationally renowned folk musicians, this year's version of the annual event proved to be a great success.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was established in 1996 to help preserve and interpret America's nineteenth century whaling history. The park encompasses a 13-block National Historic Landmark District and addresses the history of the whaling industry and its influence on the economic, social, and environmental history of the United States.

**New Bedford Whaling
National Historical Park**
33 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
www.nps.gov/nebe
nebe_superintendent@nps.gov

Park Visitor Center
(508) 996-4095

Park Headquarters
(508) 996-4469
Fax (508) 994-8922

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

From the excitement of the whaleboat races on New Bedford's historic harbor to the smooth sounds of some of folk music's most well known artists, Summerfest offers something for everyone. In addition to a musical lineup that ran the gamut from old protest songs to Irish fiddlers, this year's festival boasted an expanded craft area, hosting the largest number of vendors in the event's history, some here for the first time, some seasoned veterans. The New Bedford Whaling Museum welcomed almost 12,000 people during the two day festival and the museum gift shop had a record sales day on Saturday, July 3rd. The event was capped by the largest fireworks display in New Bedford history.

"Summerfest is like a homecoming celebration. It's not uncommon to see people you only see once a year during Summerfest weekend," commented Chief of Visitor Services, Jennifer Gonsalves. "Our visitation for the weekend was fantastic and we had great sales in the Eastern National outlet," Gonsalves continued, "Summerfest is a great family event, and we're lucky to have it happen right in the middle of the national historical park."

Scenes from Summerfest 04

Above Left: A view of the Visitor Center during Summerfest.

Above: Park Ranger Alexandria Allen with visitors enjoying Summerfest.

Below: Water Street teems with craftspeople and visitors on a beautiful July 4 weekend.

Bottom: Summerfest performers in the Visitor Center garden.



Temple Toggle-Iron: The most successful harpoon ever made. Invented by Lewis Temple, an African American whalecraft-maker of New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1848, and at first called "porpoise iron" and "Temple's gig." It became the universal whale iron, and has never been improved upon. (From Clifford W. Ashley's, *The Yankee Whaler*)

Summer Craft and Concert Series

Thursday Evenings in the Park

On Thursday evenings in July and August, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park will host a series of free Thursday evening concerts in the park. All performances begin at 7:00 p.m., last approximately one hour and take place in the visitor center garden (33 William Street). Limited seating is available and the public is invited to bring lawn chairs. In case of rain, concerts will be moved to an indoor location.



Performer

July 8: Semenya McCord

July 15: Ana Vinagre

July 22: The Jolly Rogues

July 29: Culture Park

August 5: John Campbell

August 12: Toe Jam Puppet Band

August 19: Jonathan and Ron Perry

August 26: New Bedford Harbor Sea
Chantey Chorus

Description

Contemporary Jazz

Portuguese Fado

19th Century Maritime Music

Theater Performance about Fishing

Songs of Commercial Fishing

Family Entertainment

Native American Flute Music

Sea Chanteys

Maritime Heritage Days

On Saturdays in July and August, visiting maritime musicians and craftspeople from Mystic to Cape Ann will enliven the park. Free musical performances and traditional maritime craft demonstrations will take place in the visitor center garden beginning at 12:00 p.m. Musical performances will last an hour and crafts will continue until 2:00 p.m. In the event of rain, the music and craft demonstrations will take place inside the visitor center.



Maritime Music

July 10: Daisy Nell & Captain Stan

July 17: Deb Cowan & Jerry Bryant

July 24: Ian Geddes & Friends

July 31: Rum Soaked Crooks

August 7: Compass Rose

August 14: Celeste Bernardo & Craig
Edwards

August 21: Ye Mariners All

August 28: Geoff Kaufman & Rick Spencer

Maritime Crafts

July 10: Nantucket Lightship Baskets

July 17: Figure Head Carving

July 24: Net Making

July 31: Blacksmithing

August 7: Coopering

August 14: Rigging

August 21: Sea Chests

August 28: Model Boat Building



Volunteer Spotlight



Name: Mary C. Walsh

Age: 70

City/Town you live in: New Bedford (Unless I'm traveling)

Family: Two brothers, one sister, six nephews, two nieces, eight great nephews, eight great nieces

Occupation: Retired teacher/elementary principal (44 years) family babysitter, house sitter, gardener, historian

Special Interests/Hobbies: Gardening, reading, traveling, New Bedford history, theater, volunteering (visitor center, RJD, Fort Taber)

How long have you been a volunteer at the visitor center? 4 Years

Why did you decide to become a volunteer? As a former teacher, I'm interested in teaching others about our fabulous historical city. This way I still can enjoy teaching - only now to families, parents and children

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at the visitor center? I enjoy exchanging information with visitors from around the world, encouraging them with informal accounts of our special historical venues.

What is the most interesting thing that you've done in your life? Everything I do and see is interesting. Nothing stands out. Life is wonderful. I love visiting with my family and passing on family stories to the next generation. Chatting with visitors and passing on little known tid-bits of information. My gardening relaxes me - it relieves everyday stress. I paint with flowers on an ever-changing palette.

What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try? I'd like to visit all the National Parks in the south coast

If you grew up in this area, what is one of your fondest memories? One of my fondest memories is riding the open-air trolley with my grandmother, Kinriery down to the Acushnet Park to enjoy the games (pull the string, roll the balls) and riding the small cars around the wooden tracks.



Name: Billie Klawitter

Age: 74

City/Town you live in: New Bedford

Family: Five children, six grandchildren

Occupation: Retired Occupational Therapist

Special Interests/Hobbies: Gardening, reading, sewing

How long have you been a volunteer at the visitor center? Over five years

Why did you decide to become a volunteer? After moving here from Michigan, I found the history of New Bedford very interesting. I love the old buildings. In Michigan, where I grew up, there isn't as much of a sense of history. I wanted to learn all about New Bedford then impart my knowledge to others.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at the visitor center? I enjoy how being a volunteer puts me in contact with people from all over the country and world and meeting fellow volunteers who have the same interest in history as I do. I also enjoy helping with the park's youth programs and field trips.

What is the most interesting thing that you've done in your life? My husband and I have been very fortunate to have cruised to Europe three times. Visiting Russia was a highlight as was visiting other major cities in Europe that most people only get to read about.

What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try? For the most part I would just love to continue to be able to travel and meet people.

If you grew up in this area, what is one of your fondest memories? I grew up in Michigan

Local Teachers Travel Above the Arctic Circle

Lucy Bly, longtime volunteer at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and World Languages teacher at Dartmouth High School, traveled to Alaska in early July as part of a teacher exchange sponsored by the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Ms. Bly traveled with fourth grade teacher, Katherine Gaudet, from Friend's Academy in Dartmouth. Both attended a summer course through Ilisaavik College in Barrow, Alaska called *Inupiaq Land Use Values and Resources*. Before heading above the Arctic Circle, Ms. Bly and Ms. Gaudet spent three days in Anchorage with a visit to the Alaska Native Heritage Center and a meeting with Anna Jacobs-Bateman, Historian for Affiliated Areas at the Alaska Region offices.

The course, which ran from July 5th to July 12th, “provided an overview of the core elements of the Inupiaq worldview of their geography and ecosystem” and examined “the complex relationships between people, the land, ocean and other natural resources” of the region. Ms. Bly and Ms. Gaudet

participated in several traditional subsistence activities including camping, hunting, food preparation and preservation and tool making. Both documented their experiences through journals, photography and video.

Before leaving, Ms. Bly said of the trip, “Barrow is part of the New Bedford story and there is a real connection between the two communities that I’m eager to explore. This trip provides an opportunity to experience a culture and a way of life that the people of Barrow have worked so hard to maintain and preserve.”

Travel and tuition for the trip was funded by the Education Through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) initiative, established by Congress as part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and is part of an ongoing initiative between New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the Inupiat Heritage Center in Barrow, Alaska to foster contemporary connections between Barrow

and New Bedford, communities historically linked through the nineteenth century whaling industry.



This directional sign in Barrow, AK shows the 4,924 miles the teachers traveled from New Bedford.

Volunteer Event Kicks Off Summer

In June, over 50 park volunteers and their guests enjoyed a potluck dinner in the visitor center garden to celebrate the completion of training, recognize their service and kick off the start of the summer season. This annual event was made extra special this year as the staff and volunteers also celebrated the 150th anniversary of the opening of the “Old Bank”, the building which houses the park visitor center today. In June of 1854 the New Bedford Institution for Savings first opened its doors on William Street. Remarks by Acting Superintendent Tom Ross and Chief of Visitor Services, Jennifer Gonsalves thanked the volunteers for their past year of service and previewed the summer. New volunteer, John Caron, was awarded a certificate for completing this year’s 10 week volunteer training program. Mr. Caron will join the volunteer staff this summer as a walking tour guide. The evening program included a lecture on the history of the “Old Bank” by the park’s Historical Architect, Derek Santos.

Ms. Gonsalves commented on the importance of the event, “Our volunteers are critical to the day to day operations of the park visitor center and delivery of park

interpretive programs. The Summer Kick-Off party is one of two volunteer recognition events held every year that provides the whole staff with an opportunity to say thank you.”



An edible photo of the “Old Bank” graced the delicious cake from Homlyke Bakery in New Bedford.

Park Crew List



Name: Alexandria (Ale) Allen

Job Title: Visitor Use Assistant

Town you live in: Freetown, MA

College Attending: UMass Amherst

Major: Sociology, Education Minor

Interests/Hobbies: Singing, acting, avid movie goer, reading, traveling, music

Duties Performed at Park: Assists in the management of the park visitor center, including the supervision and training of volunteer staff, information management, and sales area management. Assists in managing special events and community celebrations. Assists with Junior Rangers and Youth Programs as well as concert and craft series and movie introductions.

What do you want to be when you grow up? Everything - singer, actress, teacher, social worker, international traveler...



Alexandria frequently helps with the park's youth programs and school groups. Here she is shown with a group of local sixth grade students during a school program. Her great ability to relate to and work well with young people is an asset to the park.

All mailing services for the Toggle Iron are provided courtesy of:

Riverview Marketing,
New Bedford, MA

Chief of Visitor Services Receives Masters

Jennifer Gonsalves, Chief of Visitor Services, received a Masters of Community Planning from the University of Rhode Island on May 22. After receiving a B.A., Magna Cum Laude, from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, Jen entered URI's graduate program in the fall of 2000. During her studies she balanced a full time career, family, and participation in a number of community groups. Over the past two years, in addition to managing the park visitor center, the volunteer program, and ongoing interpretive and partnership programs, Jennifer played a major role in the planning and design of the park's two new interpretive exhibits that opened this May. Undaunted by this hectic schedule, Jennifer, as is her style, managed it all with grace and good humor. We feel very fortunate to have her on our staff. Congratulations, Jen!



Jennifer Gonsalves with husband - Glenn, daughters - Emily (10) and Elizabeth (13), and son Matt (16)

Team Installs Exhibition in the Azores

A team of New Bedford Whaling NHP partners traveled to Lagoa, Sao Miguel, Azores, Portugal between May 13-20 to install the *At the Crossroads: Traditions in Azorean Craft and Culture* exhibit at the Alambique do Malassada Museum. The exhibit was designed and developed from research collected by the park and non-profit and educational partners who traveled to the Azorean Islands of Sao Miguel, Faial and Pico in November 2002. The exhibit was previously hosted at Artworks! Gallery located within the park.

The exhibit showcases traditional handcrafts and the artisans that make them, incorporating photography and the artisans' own words to bring the craft objects to life, telling the story of what it means to be a traditional artisan in a modern, post-industrial world. It includes examples of Azorean ceramics, lace, weaving and basketry, the crafts of blacksmiths and coopers, as well as art forms that are less familiar to American audiences: maize mats, corn husk dolls, and fish scale art.

On the evening of May 19th, more than 100 residents, cultural and educational leaders, Lagoa city officials and American Consulate David Scott celebrated the exhibit opening at the Alambique Museum. The night also marked the grand opening of the Alambique Museum, a new ethnographic museum in Lagoa. The building, a former distillery, has two open galleries, an exhibit of its historic distillery equipment and an outdoor courtyard. As a surprise for the installation team, Mayor of Lagoa, Luis A.M. Martins Mota announced during his opening remarks that the Alambique Museum would be the permanent home of the exhibit. Over the next couple years, Lagoa officials will travel the exhibition to other locations in the Azores before the exhibit permanently resides at the Alambique.

The exhibit installation team consisted of Helena Hartnett, Director of Development, New Bedford Whaling Museum; Arthur Motta, Director of Tourism and Marketing, City of New Bedford; Kerrie Bellisario, Assistant Professor, Creative Arts in

Learning Division, Lesley University; and Stephen Peixoto, Exhibit Carpenter. The exhibition and team was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of International Research Programs under the Azores Cooperative Initiative Program (ACIP).



Kerrie Bellisario (left) and Helena Hartnett (right) work on installation of the exhibit in the Azores.

Focus on Youth

This summer brings more of what visitors to the park have come to expect, including concert and craft series, exhibitions, walking tours, cultural festivals, lectures and AHA! nights, as well as new exhibits, new publications, and even more new festivals. If you're a young person, summer means one thing-no more school. With summer vacation comes a welcome influx of families and participants in summer youth programs. In this edition of the Toggle Iron, we wanted to pay tribute to these special visitors by sharing our favorite pictures of young people in the park this season. One of our favorite stories involves 9-year old David Willis of South Dakota. He is home-schooled, and currently traveling full time collecting Junior Ranger badges wherever he goes. He has over 50 badges and almost as many patches. He recently added a New Bedford Whaling Jr. Ranger badge, Art Ranger badge and Barrow, AK badge to his collections. We hope you enjoy these photos of our nation's future.

Below: Park Ranger Frank Barrows with David Willis of South Dakota. David wears all the Junior Ranger badges and patches he has earned on his boy scout shirt.

Right: Park Ranger Alexandria Allen with a group of Junior Rangers.

Below Right: Park Ranger Frank Barrows with students from Hayden-McFadden Elementary School after completing an Underground Railroad scavenger hunt in the park.





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling
National Historical Park

STAFF

Superintendent
John Piltzecker

Deputy Superintendent
Thomas E. Ross

Administrative Program Specialist
Michelle Spink

Historical Architect
Derek Santos

Chief of Visitor Services
Jennifer Gonsalves

Park Ranger- Web and Publications Coordinator
Frank Barrows

Park Ranger- Visitor Use Assistant
Alexandria Allen

This newsletter was produced in
partnership with:

**New Bedford Area
Chamber of Commerce**
794 Purchase Street
P.O. Box 8827
New Bedford, MA
02742



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling
National Historical Park
33 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

AHA!

Art, History, & Architecture
Downtown New Bedford's Arts
& Culture Gallery Night

**the second Thursday of
each month**

5-9 PM

All venues and programs
are **FREE!**

Thursday, August 12

"KIDS RULE"

Thursday, September 9

"Insight & Learning"

Thursday, October 14

"In the Realm of Nature"

www.ahanewbedford.org

August 12-15, 2004

**Azorean Whaleboat
Regatta**

*Hosting whaleboat rowing
teams from the Azores*

September 24-26, 2004

**Working Waterfront
Festival**

*Celebrating Commercial
Fishing*

www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org

Prsrt. Std.
U.S. Postage PAID
New Bedford, MA
Permit # 32